

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 312

In Memory
of
Eleanor Whilden Tinsley

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Houston in mourning the loss of Eleanor Whilden Tinsley, who died February 10, 2009, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, A civic icon and longtime member of the Houston City Council, Eleanor Whilden Tinsley was known for breaking down barriers and focusing on issues relating to quality of life for Houstonians; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tinsley began her long career in public service as a member of a pro-integration school board slate of candidates in 1969; she and her fellow trustees helped create magnet schools and Houston Community College; and

WHEREAS, Along with controller Kathy Whitmire and councilwoman Christin Hartung, Mrs. Tinsley broke the gender barrier in Houston politics with her election to the Houston City Council in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tinsley introduced ordinances for many progressive causes during her tenure on the council, including the regulation of billboards and a smoking ban; dedicated to the rights of all citizens, she was one of the first local candidates to solicit the endorsements of gay groups and Planned Parenthood; and

WHEREAS, A woman of courage, strength, and compassion, she gave generously to others, and her wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew her; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Tinsley was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and she leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by her family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Eleanor Whilden Tinsley: her daughters, Kathleen Ownby and Marilyn Daniel; her son, Tom Tinsley; her brother, Walter Whilden; and her seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Eleanor Whilden Tinsley.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 25, 2009, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate